

## APPENDIX A

### DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

#### 68-ACRE ADDITION TO CALF CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

A Management Plan was revised and implemented in 1998 for Calf Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA), following an extensive public participation process under the guidance of the Montana Environmental Policy Act. The provisions of the Plan have been working well and remain current to the present day. The existing 1998 Plan is included in this Appendix.

This is to document that a 68-acre addition to the Calf Creek WMA, donated by Ms Christopher Young in 2011, would be folded into the existing Management Plan, requiring little more than a property boundary change. The 68 acres may be generally described as T6N, R19W Section 18 W1/2NE.

An adjustment in the public access plan is proposed to integrate the 68-acre addition. Public access by foot or bicycle would be allowed from April 15 through December 1 upon the FWP road easement that crosses a strip of private land for a distance of about 200 yards between the WMA public parking area and the 68-acre addition. The public may not leave the roadway when crossing this strip of private land (Figure 1). All other WMA rules and regulations apply to the 68-acre addition.

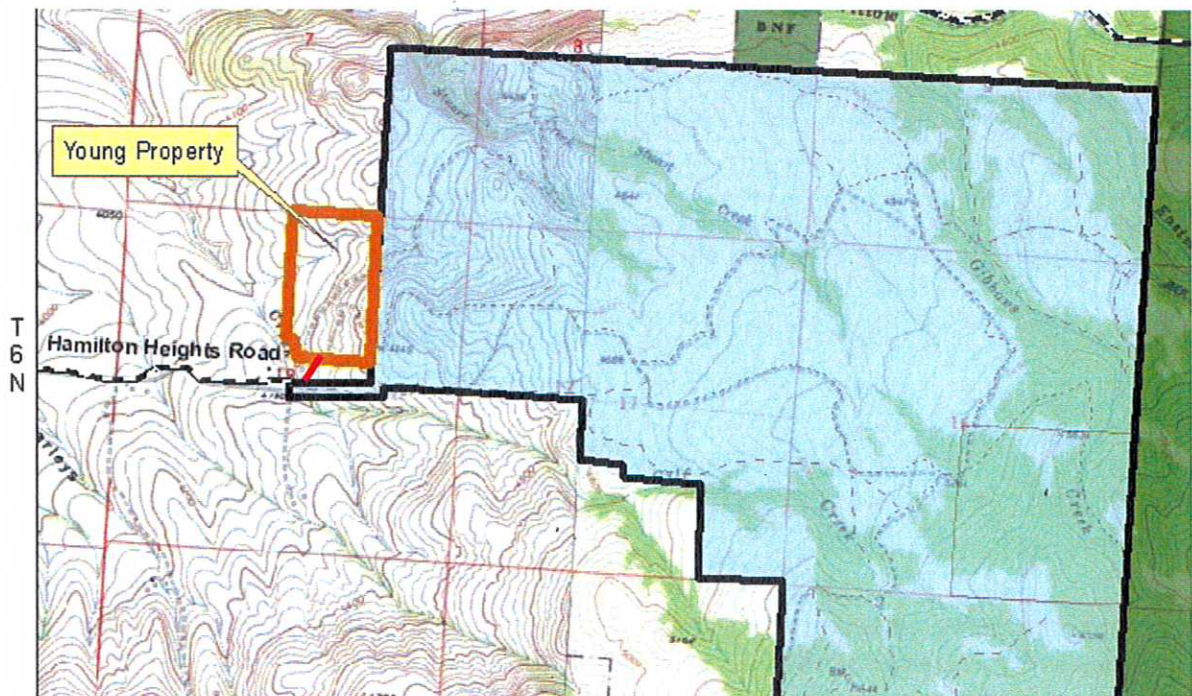


Figure 1. Approximate location of FWP public road easement (red line) across a strip of private land between the WMA parking area and the 68-acre addition to Calf Creek WMA.

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# **C**alf Creek *Wildlife Management Area*

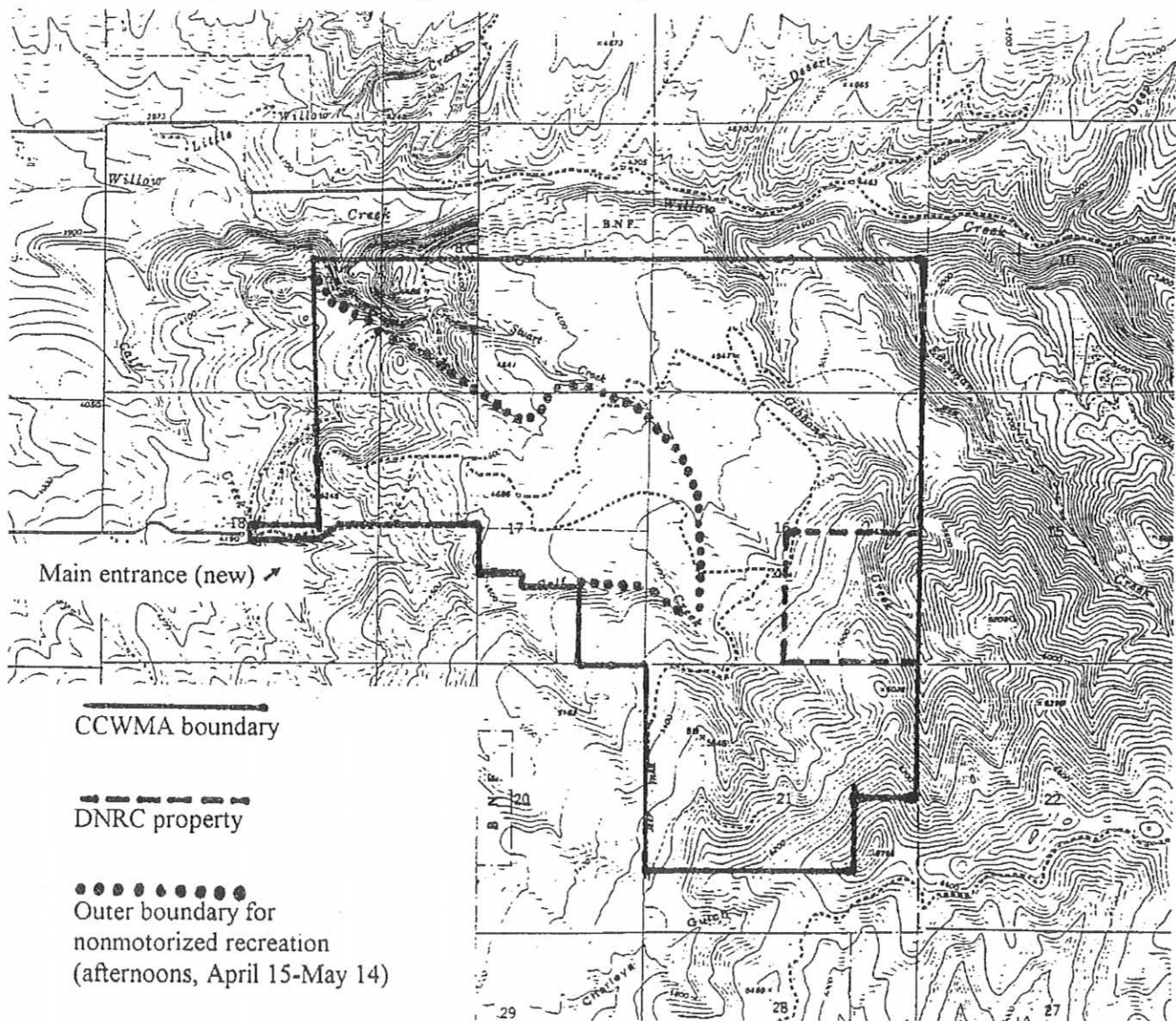


## FINAL MANAGEMENT PLAN, MAP & REGULATIONS

**Revised 1998**

# WHAT *is Calf Creek Wildlife Management Area?*

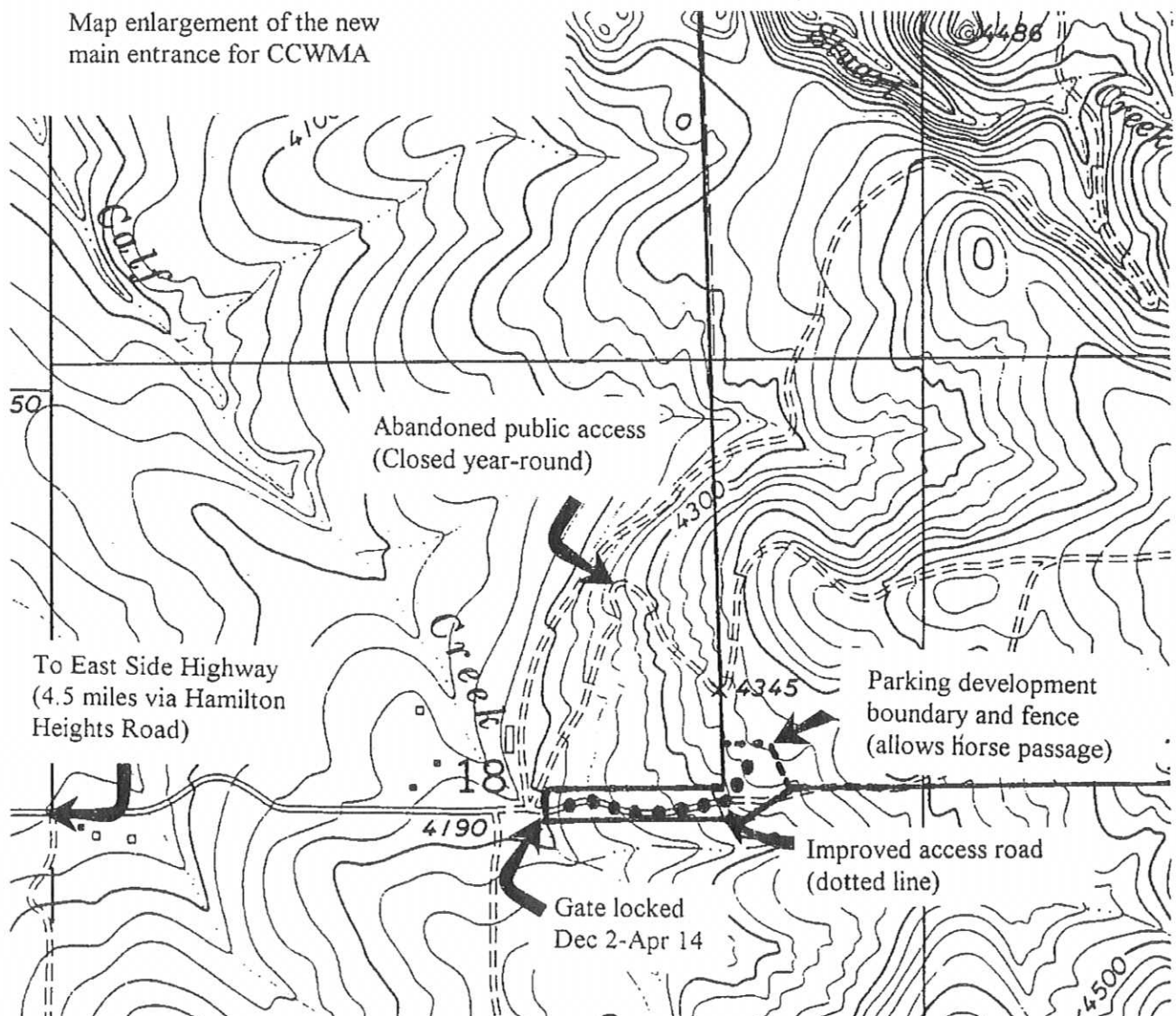
CCWMA is a 2,173-acre property that is owned and managed by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). FWP's primary purpose for CCWMA is to provide elk winter range. Secondly, FWP strives to provide hunting and other compatible recreation.



# WHERE *is Calf Creek Wildlife Management Area?*

CCWMA is located in Ravalli County, in the foothills of the Sapphire Mountains. It may be accessed by proceeding 2.5 miles south from Corvallis on the East Side Highway, then turning east on Hamilton Heights Road. Follow the road about 5 miles to the CCWMA entrance.

Map enlargement of the new main entrance for CCWMA





## *A Work In Progress . . .*

### **Goal:**

FWP strives to maintain and enhance native plant communities on Calf Creek Wildlife Management Area as habitat for a diversity of wildlife species and populations, with emphasis on elk winter range. Secondly, FWP strives to provide hunting and other outdoor recreational opportunities for the public, and to manage recreation in a manner that avoids conflict with the overriding purpose of providing elk winter habitat.

### **Objectives:**

- ▶ Maintain and enhance native sagebrush-grasslands and forests, and prescribe management actions that mimic natural processes and enhance ecologic integrity and function.
- ▶ Maintain and enhance streambank stability and ecologic complexity (horizontal and vertical) of native plant communities and associated animal life in riparian zones.
- ▶ Prevent soil erosion and enhance elk forage quantity and quality in non-native grasslands.
- ▶ Provide space, cover and natural forage to support 200 elk through winter and early spring.
- ▶ Recognize habitat values on neighboring private lands and impacts of WMA management on neighboring landowners. Develop and enhance cooperative working relations with neighbors.
- ▶ Encourage and coordinate hands-on community involvement in education programs, property maintenance, habitat management, and wildlife-related research on the WMA.
- ▶ Develop regulations that enhance recreational opportunities for which Calf Creek WMA is uniquely suited and recognized: hiking, horseback riding, and walk-in hunting for elk and deer.

## *Calf Creek Wildlife Management Area*

### REGULATIONS

1. Area is closed year-round to the operation of motorized vehicles and target shooting. No firewood cutting or removal.
2. Area (including parking area) is closed to all public access (non-motorized as well as motorized) from December 2 through April 14.
3. Area is partially open (as posted) to non-motorized access between the hours of noon and sunset from April 15 through May 14. No firearms discharge, dogs, or camping allowed during this period.
4. Area is entirely open to non-motorized access from May 15 through December 1. Recreationists may be accompanied by dogs from May 15 through October 14.
5. This area was purchased with revenues from sales of hunting licenses and firearms. Hunting is the featured recreation activity on this area every fall. Intentional interference with legal hunting activities is a violation of state law. For safety, all recreationists should wear 400 square inches of hunter-orange clothing during the general big-game season. No dogs allowed from October 15-December 1. Non-hunting recreation is less disruptive if done quietly during midday hours. Hunters and others should be aware of each other and behave respectfully.
6. Overnight camping is allowed from May 15 through December 1. Maximum stay is 14 days during any 30-day period. Camping and loitering (after dark) are prohibited within view of the main entrance and parking area. Open fires are prohibited, camp stoves are allowed.
7. Permits required for groups of more than 30 persons. A Recreational Use License is required to use state school trust land in the southeast quarter of section 16.
8. Pack in, pack out trash.
9. No guiding, outfitting or other uses of the area as part of any commercial enterprise.

Questions? Contact Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula 59804  
Phone 406-542-5500

## *Noxious Weed Control Plan . . .*

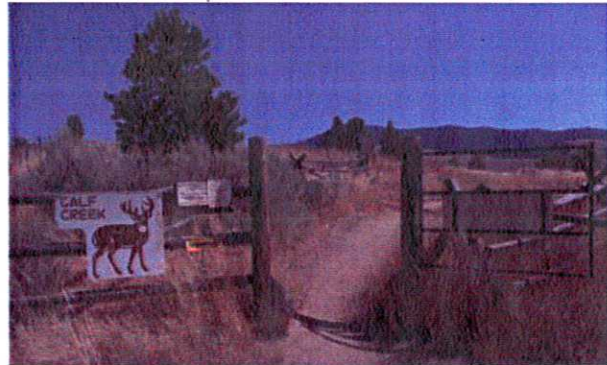
- ▶ Inventory and Mapping: FWP will inventory exotic weed species and distributions on CCWMA and lands immediately adjacent. FWP will coordinate in advance with the Ravalli County Weed District and neighboring landowners. Products of this effort would include: (1) a hard-copy map of weed distributions by species and abundance, following Montana's standardized weed-mapping protocol; and (2) a brief risk assessment pertinent to each weed species and associated native plant community. FWP plans to obtain these products by October 31, 1998. This inventory should be repeated after 5 years to assess progress and trends, and a target date for the next comprehensive weed inventory should be set at that time.
- ▶ Early Detection: Using the above-described inventory as a baseline reference, FWP personnel will make a dedicated effort annually to inspect roadsides and the main entrance area for new incidences of exotic weed species or unusual, unidentified plants. Such inspections would occur during the season when each target species is most readily identifiable by color or other characteristics; thus, 2 or more annual inspections may be required to address the full range of high-risk invasive species. FWP would precisely map any new weed occurrences and make an annual report to the Ravalli County Weed District.
- ▶ Prevention and Spot Eradication: Based on inventory information and recommendations gained from the above-described mapping project, as well as subsequent field checks by FWP personnel, FWP will attempt to eradicate spot occurrences of highly invasive, exotic species as they are detected on CCWMA. In such cases where prevention of initial weed establishment is the primary management objective, eradication would be accomplished by qualified and properly licensed personnel, using the most effective and efficient means available. Eradication measures would be expected to occur at a scale involving individual plants, or spot infestations up to 1 acre in size, and would most likely occur along roadsides or disturbed sites. Yellow starthistle is one example of a highly invasive species that is only now being found in Montana and would be subject to a prevention and eradication objective on CCWMA. Conversely, spotted knapweed distribution is widespread and abundant, and cannot be eradicated from CCWMA by safe and reasonable means.



- ▶ Reduce Seed Dispersal to Neighboring Properties: In coordination with the Ravalli County Weed District and adjacent landowners, FWP will use picloram and/or other appropriate herbicides to prevent weed seed production and dispersal on CCWMA within a 300-foot buffer zone around the main access road and parking area, and adjacent to neighboring properties that are under active weed management. Spotted knapweed and sulphur cinquefoil are the primary noxious weed species that would be subject to control within such buffer zones at this writing. FWP anticipates that up to 75 grassland acres on CCWMA would be subject to management as noxious-weed buffer zones.
  
- ▶ Demonstration and Research: All other weed management and control actions would take the form of research, demonstration or educational projects, specifically designed to address timely issues of ecological importance and broad human interest. Such actions would be coordinated by FWP and a citizens' advisory committee, as more fully detailed in the next section of this management plan. FWP estimates that up to 50% of the grassland area not already identified as noxious weed buffer zones on CCWMA, or about 600 acres of land, may be subject to some form of weed control or treatment at one time or another from 1999 (after the initial weed inventory) through the year 2010. FWP would maintain its ongoing commitment to the Western Agricultural Research Center at Corvallis for the continuation of knapweed biocontrol research at CCWMA.
  
- ▶ Herbicides: FWP would assume responsibility for protecting the environment and avoiding public health risks when using herbicides. Herbicides would be selected on the basis of effectiveness in killing target weed species, risks of impacts to non-target species and the environment, site characteristics, and cost. Herbicides would be handled and applied by reliable and licensed professionals, at times and on sites where risks of known potential impacts or accidents are low. FWP would continue to keep abreast of changing technologies and strategies for effective weed control that could be employed to further reduce risks associated with herbicide use. Considering the weed species present at CCWMA, and the herbicides available for use, FWP would most likely select Tordon 22K herbicide for spot eradication and buffer zone treatments (as described above). Normally, Tordon would be applied at a rate of 1-2 pints per treated acre, though this may vary by weed species. On the average, each site designated for Tordon treatment would be sprayed on one occasion in every 4-6 years. Means of application would be by truck, 4-wheeler, or helicopter, depending upon site-specific circumstances. Overall, herbicide application would occur during 1 day per year on CCWMA (i.e., herbicides would not be applied in some years, but might be applied during 2-3 days in other years). Prescribed herbicide treatments would begin in spring, 1998 (i.e., spraying buffer zones along property boundaries with private landowners who are controlling noxious weeds). Notification to CCWMA users would be clearly posted at the main entrance immediately prior to, and would be maintained for 2-weeks following, every instance of herbicide spraying. Sites selected for herbicide applications would be coordinated with ongoing and planned investments in biocontrol and other research.

# YOU *can be involved in managing Calf Creek WMA!*

A *Citizens' Advisory Committee* will be established to participate with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks in its implementation of the Calf Creek management plan. The committee will include neighbors, educators, agency representatives, recreation interests and others. The purposes of this committee are to:



- ▶ Provide a structure for increasing contacts and improving working relationships among adjacent landowners, recreationists, and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks;
- ▶ Encourage users and other interested parties to channel their enthusiasm into mutually rewarding projects that further management objectives at Calf Creek;
- ▶ Identify and address issues of general public interest and concern, which involve the management of Calf Creek WMA;
- ▶ Advance and support ecological research, educational opportunities, and management demonstrations of wide public interest on the WMA;
- ▶ Obtain an appropriate measure of community participation and hands-on volunteerism toward property maintenance and development projects on Calf Creek WMA;
- ▶ Help Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks make the most of limited state funds and labor;
- ▶ Coordinate projects and uses on the WMA to prevent overlap, duplication and conflicts;
- ▶ Ensure that all activities are conducted in a manner consistent with principles of proper land stewardship, environmental conservation, and enhancement of native plant communities;
- ▶ Coordinate projects and uses at Calf Creek to obtain a collective habitat benefit for indigenous wildlife species, with emphasis on winter-spring habitat for elk;
- ▶ Develop a strong, diverse constituency at Calf Creek, and exchange thoughts and ideas.